United Nations A/56/304

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 August 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Items 41 and 110 of the provisional agenda*

Oceans and the law of the sea

Environment and sustainable development

Letter dated 16 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a note verbale dated 21 July 2001 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tehran concerning illegal activities in the Alborz oil field in the Caspian Sea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly under items 41 and 110 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Hadi **Nejad-Hosseinian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/56/150.

01-51453 (E) 200801

Annex to the letter dated 16 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tehran and has the honour to state the following:

In accordance with the news made public, the state-owned Oil Corporation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in cooperation with certain oil companies, intends to carry out activities in the Alborz oil field. As indicated in the notes dated 26 June 1998 and 18 August 1998 of this Ministry, this is to reiterate, once more, that in order to conduct any kind of actions and activities, such as research projects, exploration and exploitation in this oil field, necessary permission should be obtained from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Thus, the said activities in the Alborz oil field would be contrary to the established rights and the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran shall not permit any State or foreign company to carry out the above-mentioned activities. Evidently, the responsibility for the consequences of any irresponsible actions that may be taken in the said region rests with the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan.